

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OIC-04 /139 W

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R 162305Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2813

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, GT BH

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE AIRING OF BELIZE PROBLEM
AT OASGA

REF: GUATEMALA 2035

1. DURING CONVERSATION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTERNOON APRIL 16,
FON MIN JORGE ARENALES TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS CONCERNED THAT AT
ATLANTA OASGA, COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN STATES WOULD ATTEMPT TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF JURIDICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON COLONIALISM IN
HEMISPHERE TO MAKE STRONG PUBLIC ISSUE OF BELIZE PROBLEM.
ARENALES SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO ATLANTA
WITH PLANS FOR ANY "ACTION" ON BELIZE QUESTION, HE DEFINITELY
HAD TO BE READY FOR "REACTION" IN FACE OF ANY COMMONWEALTH
CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT IF REPORT ON COLONIALISM IS
HANDLED IN ROUTINE, LOW-KEY FASHION HE WILL BE VERY LOW KEY
ABOUT IT. IF, HOWEVER, CARIBBEAN STATES ATTEMPT TO MAKE ISSUE
OF BELIZE
IN CONNECTION WITH REPORT HE WILL FIND IT NECESSARY MAKE STRONG
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT GUATEMALA'S POSITION. SUCH A TREATMENT
OF THE ISSUE, HE FELT, WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF NO ONE.

2. ARENALES SAID HE HAD PASSED THIS WORD TO BRITISH AND HAD
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HOPES THAT HMG, REALIZING IT WOULD BE IN NO ONE'S INTEREST TO

HAVE EXCHANGE OF POLEMICS ON BELIZE AT OASGA, WOULD MAKE SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO INDUCE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN NATIONS TO PLAY REPORT AND BELIZE QUESTION IN LOW KEY.

3. IN BROADENING CONVERSATION TO QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REINITIATION OF TALKS WITH BRITISH RE BELIZE, ARENALES SAID THAT CONTINUING IMPEDIMENT TO TALKS WAS FACT THAT BRITISH WOULD NOT MAKE EVEN TOKEN REDUCTION OF FORCES IN BELIZE. ARENALES NOTED THAT TALKS HAD BEEN BROKEN OFF OVER ISSUE OF NUMBER OF TROOPS STATIONED IN BELIZE AND THAT HE COULD NOT REALLY DEFEND REINITIATION OF TALKS UNLESS BRITISH MADE AT LEAST "TOKEN" (FIVE, TEN, OR TWENTY PER CENT) REDUCTION OF FORCES THAT HE COULD POINT TO AS REASON THAT GUATEMALA WAS RESUMING DISCUSSIONS.

4. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION OF BRITISH ENTRY INTO OAS AS OBSERVER, ARENALES, OF COURSE, SAID GUATEMALA STILL STRONGLY OPPOSED.
MELOY

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Message Attributes

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